

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 135

By Borchert

A RESOLUTION to urge the Congress of the United States to expedite federal funding for construction of the Montgomery County Veterans Nursing Home.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety, concerns, and lives to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave this state its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States; and

WHEREAS, these valiant veterans rightfully deserve to receive adequate care and benefits after their years of service, and the citizens of this great Nation are obligated to provide the necessary facilities in their time of need; and

WHEREAS, the people of Clarksville, Tennessee, the proud home of Fort Campbell and the "Screaming Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Division, sought to provide such a facility through the establishment of a Veterans Nursing Home in Montgomery County, Tennessee, with construction set to begin in May of 2008, on land donated by the Clarksville-Montgomery County Industrial Development Board; and

WHEREAS, both the Tennessee State Veterans Home Board and the greater Clarksville community have worked diligently to see this project to fruition, awaiting only federal funding from the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, recently, the Veterans Administration (VA) in Washington, D. C., informed Tennessee State Veterans Home Board Executive Director Polly Darnall that the VA could not come up with its share of the \$18 million needed for the project to proceed as scheduled, which, if not overcome, will result in groundbreaking being delayed for at least one year; and

WHEREAS, this body wholly appreciates, as do all Americans, what the military veterans of our beloved country have done, and it is vital that the Congress of the United States expedite and fully fund the proposed Montgomery County Veterans Nursing Home this year; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this body strongly urges Congress to expedite federal funding for the Montgomery County Veterans Nursing Home to fulfill our Nation's obligation to our courageous military veterans who proudly served their country with distinction and commitment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, to the Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and to each member of the Tennessee congressional delegation.